



News Release

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State revokes, suspends licenses, certifications, registrations of health care providers

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Health has revoked or suspended the licenses, certifications, or registrations of health care providers in our state. The department has also immediately suspended the credentials of people who have been prohibited from practicing in other states.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency's website. Click on "[Look up a health care provider license](#)" in the "How Do I?" section of the [Department of Health home page](#) (doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are also encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Benton County

In May 2015 the Nursing Commission suspended the registered nurse credential of **Dena Rae Conklin** (RN00106512), who didn't comply with a substance abuse monitoring contract.

Clark County

In May 2015 the Nursing Assistant Program suspended the certified nursing assistant credential of **Regina Ieisha Hurts** (NC60484819) for at least three years. In 2015 Hurts pleaded guilty to third-degree theft after stealing jewelry that belonged to a 90-year-old vulnerable resident of an assisted living facility where she worked.

Grant County

In May 2015 the Nursing Assistant Program suspended the registered nursing assistant credential of **Christine L. Backman** (NA60147652) for at least three years. In 2014 Backman pleaded guilty to third-degree assault involving a weapon and fourth-degree assault.

King County

In May 2015 the secretary of health suspended the registered nursing assistant credential of **Melissa J. Ott** (NA00161180) for at least two years. In 2012 Ott was convicted of attempted unlawful solicitation to possess a controlled substance — oxycodone.

In May 2015 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse and advanced registered nurse practitioner **Cynthia A. Brown** (RN00130329, AP30004753) with unprofessional conduct and immediately suspended her credentials. Brown admitted issuing controlled substance prescriptions for herself under assumed names and her mother's name. She didn't comply with a substance abuse monitoring contract, and again issued prescriptions for herself under others' names.

In May 2015 the Pharmacy Commission indefinitely suspended the pharmacy technician credential of **Michaela M. Connors** (VA00013423), who didn't comply with a substance abuse monitoring program.

In May 2015 the Pharmacy Commission indefinitely suspended the pharmacist credential of **Michael J. Henry** (PH00020389). Henry closed his pharmacy without notifying the commission. He submitted only a hand-written list to account for the transfer of controlled substances from the pharmacy. A Department of Health investigator didn't find records where Henry said they were stored.

Kittitas County

In May 2015 the Nursing Commission indefinitely suspended the registered nurse credential of **James Carey Grove** (RN60184741), who didn't comply with a substance abuse monitoring contract.

Lincoln County

In May 2015 the Nursing Commission indefinitely suspended the registered nurse credential of **Patrick James Corn** (RN00111394). While working at a nursing and rehabilitation center, Corn didn't ensure a resident's portable ventilator was placed correctly, leading to the need for the patient to get treatment at a hospital. The state Department of Social and Health Services found that Corn neglected a vulnerable adult and can't be employed in the care of or have unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

Pierce County

In May 2015 the Nursing Assistant Program indefinitely suspended the certified nursing assistant credential of **Norma G. Ballard** (NC10014498). Ballard worked at a facility for dementia patients. When an exit door alarm went off, Ballard secured the door, but didn't count patients. A patient had left the facility and went to a neighboring house, where a person called 9-1-1.

In May 2015 the Mental Health Counselor Program suspended the mental health counselor associate credential of **Donald Ray Strand** (MC60170337) for at least 42 months. Strand had improper relationships with two vulnerable clients, including touching them inappropriately, making suggestive comments and other sexual behaviors that are not appropriate for a counselor-patient relationship.

In May 2015 the secretary of health revoked the licensed massage practitioner credential of **Anthony T. Blake** (MA00008819). In 2006 Blake was convicted of patronizing a prostitute.

In June 2015 the Nursing Assistant Program charged registered nursing assistant **Denis Mururu Tarichia** (NA60309438) with unprofessional conduct and immediately suspended his license. While working for a supported living organization, Tarichia used two clients' accounts to order pay-per-view movies at a total cost of \$154.89. The state Department of Social and Health Services found that Tarichia financially exploited a vulnerable adult and will not allow him to be employed in caring for or having unsupervised access to vulnerable adults.

In May 2015 the Unlicensed Practice Program ordered **Xiaohong Chen** to cease and desist from the practice of massage, and pay a \$1,000 fine. Chen doesn't have a massage practitioner credential, but her workplace had a sign advertising massage.

Snohomish County

In May 2015 the Nursing Commission suspended the registered nurse credential of **Linda D. Carlson** (RN00084607), who didn't comply with a substance abuse monitoring contract.

In June 2015 the Nursing Assistant Program permanently revoked the registered nursing assistant credential of **Edna Romero Lofstedt** (NA00144898), who provided a false Social Security number on her application.

Spokane County

In May 2015 the Pharmacy Commission entered an agreement with pharmacy assistant and pharmacy technician **Eric D. Holcomb** (VB60152063, VA60205969) that suspends his credentials for at least two years. He diverted narcotics from the pharmacy where he worked.

In April 2015 the Nursing Assistant Program suspended the registered nursing assistant credential of **Rachael Ann Bailey** (NA60234120) for at least three years. Bailey took a dementia patient, whom she had provided care for, to the patient's bank, and the patient then gave or lent her \$200.

Thurston County

In May 2015 the Medical Commission withdrew a statement of charges against physician **Ross E. Vogelgesang** (MD00029447).

In May 2015 the Nursing Commission entered an agreement with registered nurse **Brendajean Fern Warner** (RN00117367) under which she surrendered her credential. Warner didn't document administering or disposing of a patient's medication while she was working at a chemical dependency center.

In June 2015 the Mental Health Counselor Program entered an agreement with mental health counselor **Tammy Lynn Putvin** (MC60113022) under which she surrendered her credential. Putvin billed a client's insurance company for sessions she didn't provide, didn't furnish required information to two clients, and didn't keep regular notes for those clients.

Yakima County

In May 2015 the Nursing Commission suspended the registered nurse credential of **Lesli Lynn Farnsworth** (RN00103020), who is unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety because of a mental health condition.

Out of State

Missouri: In June 2015 the Nursing Commission indefinitely suspended the registered nurse credential of **Penny Sue Lawson** (RN60050740). Lawson's Kansas license was revoked in 2015 after she falsified her renewal application by not reporting a misdemeanor conviction.

New York: In May 2015 the Unlicensed Practice Program ordered **Ruiyan Niu** to cease and desist from the practice of massage, and pay a \$1,000 fine. Niu has no massage practitioner credential. Her workplace had a sign advertising massage.

Oregon: In May 2015 the Nursing Commission indefinitely suspended the registered nurse credential of **Joshua Lee Shepherd** (RN60254072). Shepherd's Oregon license was suspended in connection with being intoxicated while at work.

Pennsylvania: In June 2015 the Nursing Commission indefinitely suspended the registered nurse credential of **Aaron Robert Holloman** (RN00124895). Holloman's Arizona credential was revoked and he surrendered his California license.

The [Department of Health website](http://doh.wa.gov) (doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*.

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